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Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center
for

September 1985

The Probe, Issue 56 - September/October 1985

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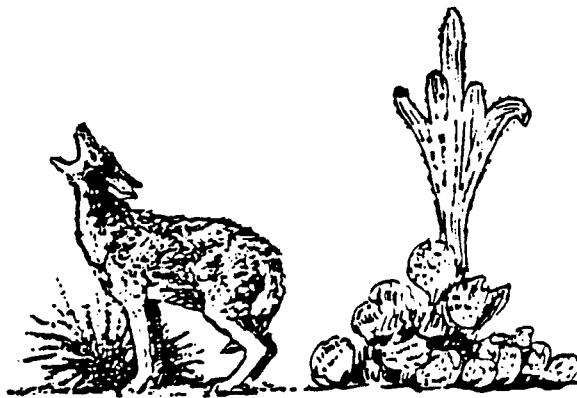


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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 56

THOUGH THE MILLS OF GOD GRIND SLOWLY...

No one in their right mind will compare the "workings" of Congress with God--besides Congress is even slower. The Justice Department has decreed that the transfer of ADC activities from Agriculture to Interior was illegal so no legislative action was needed to transfer ADC duties. However, you don't carry out a program today without money (except for NADCA officers) and ADC money is still in the FY 86 budget for Interior. Supposedly this was to be done before Congress left steamy old Washington (this quaint custom started back in the days before airconditioning and Congress will never give up any of its perks) for various "fact-finding missions" (for those of us who pay our own way these are called "vacations"). The Senate had passed the transfer of funds from Interior to Agriculture but our old Animal Rightist friend, Sidney Yates from Chicago, sunk the proposal in the House. As he is Chairman of the Interior Budget Committee, he is one of the reasons NADCA wants out of Interior. This sets the shift of ADC back, but hopefully only temporarily. The new time schedule will still be a paper shift of ADC duties and personnel to Agriculture on October 1st, followed by a 90-day transition period. As has been said before - "Don't hold your breath!"

Insanity is hereditary. You can get it from your kids.

September- October, 1985

MEETINGS. BE THERE!

09/22-25/85: 2nd Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference, Raleigh, NC. Contact: Dr. Bruce Winston, Div. Lifelong Education, NCSU, Box 7401, Raleigh, NC 27695-7401

12/3-5/85: 7th Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop, San Antonio, TX. Contact: Dr. Dan Fagre Dept. Wildl. & Fish. Sci., Texas A&M Univ., College Station, TX 77843

03/4-6/86: 12th Vertebrate Pest Conference, San Diego, CA. Contact: Rex Marsh, Dept. Wildl. & Fish. Biol., UC-Davis, Davis, CA 95616

It is better to have loved and lost than to have won and paid alimony.

SO YOU THOUGHT THE USE OF THE 1080 COLLAR WAS NOW THE LAW OF THE LAND?

Allen E. Smith, President of the DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE, doesn't in this recent letter to the suckers in a request for more bankrolling.

"Thank you for talking with our representative about Defender's Stop Compound 1080 campaign. After considering the importance of this all-out effort, I hope you will support us with a gift of \$25, \$50, or possibly \$75.

With your gift we will print and mail information packets to a network of activists on the state level. Public officials need to hear from citizens in their states that 1080 toxic collars are

simply too hazardous to use.

Defenders is also developing a central registry to monitor toxic collar certification in each one of the states. No other organization is providing this service.

Our legal expenses are also mounting. Now that the EPA has approved registration of 1080 collars, Defenders will investigate legal avenues to prevent collar distribution. And we are prepared to appeal the EPA's decision to the Supreme Court if necessary.

This is an urgent and costly battle. Your financial support is timely as it helps to fund these efforts on behalf of defenseless wildlife.

Fighting for wildlife is a full-time job and it points up the need today for a citizen's group like Defenders of Wildlife. Thank you for caring...and for helping us in these efforts."

All the world loves a lover. His wife's attorney best of all.

SLAUGHTER OF THE SLUGS

Where are the Animal Rights activists now that the garden slug needs them? Since scientists have discovered important cancer-treating chemicals in the lovable Limax flavus it is inevitable that many thousands of slugs will be maltreated, mutilated, and murdered in the name of research. Nobody has the right to decide that compassion ends with mammals and birds. The slaughter of slugs must be prevented. Thanx to Ann Fitzwater and the TORONTO GLOBE-MAIL 15 Jun 85.

The difference between a career and a job is about twenty or more hours a week.

PROFESSIONALISM - COMMITMENT BEYOND EMPLOYMENT

That's the title of a paper by Jack W. Thomas (U.S. Pacific Northwest Forest & Range Experiment Station, Oregon) presented at the Western Section of THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY in Monterey, CA, 25

January 1985. It was sent to me by a good friend and supporter of NADCA with the kind comment that if I couldn't print the article which he pointed out was relevant to the question of continuing NADCA "...at least be cheered by the fact that, humor included, you're a professional." As it is too long to print in its entirety, I'll butcher it up in my own biased style and give you only the short ribs.

Vocation is from the Latin vocare meaning work to which one is called by the Gods. A true test is that it meets two criteria: (1) it is the kind of work you need most to do and (2) it is work that the world needs to have done. Compared with a "job", the driving mechanism in a "vocation" is the will not the boss and the goal is the mission not the money. Thus he defines wildlife biologists who are always in the process of becoming all that they can be as "professionals." This "...sense of professionalism is largely within control of the individual. Though they can help, professionalism does not depend on professional societies and organizations, nor on employers."

The professional is always in the process of learning. A University diploma is no proof of education or competence but merely the beginning of real learning not its terminus. Some employers are unable or unwilling to continue employee training. Pay your own way. There is more and better literature than ever before in wildlife biology but go further into economics, forestry, range management, land-use planning, politics, sociology, etc. Forget the excuse, "I'm too busy to read." We don't accept that from lawyers and doctors and shouldn't accept it from anyone who aspires to be a "professional".

The measure of success is the professional's effectiveness in achieving objectives. This effectiveness is enhanced in the following ways:

Biopolitics - Wildlife biologists are trained in scientific management of

wildlife and their habitats. The purist believes solely in the scientific process, but in a management sense, biology is never pure. Thus, biopolitics is "...the art of resolving biological...management problems in a biologically sound and politically acceptable manner." The two are not always on opposite sides though we often tend to place them there. Thus a good resource manager is a biopolitician combining biological and political skills to achieve objectives in the best possible way considering prevailing circumstances and ethical constraints.

Economics - Money does not make the world go around, but wildlife biologists are part of the tiny minority of the American people who believe that. The rest operate on the premise that money does make the world spin merrily on its axis. Thus the effective biologist knows economics is very important in making biopolitical decisions and natural resource allocations. More and more, the fate of wildlife hangs on a cost/benefit ratio. He gives an example that wildlife in Colorado generated economic returns of over \$1,000,000,000 per year, but this is of no interest to the landowners who hold the key to wildlife welfare unless it translates real dollars to them on a cost/benefit ratio better than other alternatives.

Communication Skills - A biologist cannot be effective without good communication skills - write in both technical and popular style, converse intelligibly, and speak persuasively to groups. The Mark Trail type with a pipe and a dog who communes with nature and tends to avoid man and his works lives in the past. A modern biologist struggles with work plans, reports, interviews, computers, video tapes, politicians, personnel problems, and little old ladies in tennis shoes. The fate of wildlife in this country probably does not depend upon a census perfectly run or selective bait placement, but on the effective communication between the biologist, persons interested in natural resources, and the general public.

Philosophical Position - He points out that biologists, while possibly a little strange, are not mentally ill but most suffer from schizophrenia. The basic cause of this is our profession is called "wildlife management", two diametrically opposed words. "Wild" refers to something untamable and "Manage" is the act of taming. Thus the wildlife biologist philosophically dedicated to preservation of wildlife is forced to participate in dilution of wildness in order to preserve wildlife in a managed environment.

Attitude - Biologists as a group are "losers". They expect to get beaten even though winning is better than losing. But an effective professional is a "winner", not personally but for wildlife. He points out that "winning" is not always a total victory, but you become a winner for wildlife if you continue to strive.

Do the best with what you've got - Perhaps the greatest challenge that faces professionals engaged in wildlife management is the organization of wildlife information into a form that can be applied to management and evaluation. To say "we don't know enough" is to hide behind a half truth. It is far better to take what knowledge is available, add to it expert opinion, and make predictions about the consequences of alternative management actions. This results in a place to start. "Ecology is made up of successive approximations - - there is no final truth."

Appearance - Too often we let dress code of our particular sub-culture get in the way of our effectiveness to do something for wildlife and for society. Too often people can't hear us because of the way we dress or talk.

Ethics - He lists the standards of behavior for wildlife biologists by THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY:

1. Tell folks your prime responsibility is to the public interest, wildlife resource, and the environment.

2. Don't perform professional services to anybody whose intent is to damage the wildlife resource.
3. Work hard.
4. Don't agree to perform tasks for which you aren't qualified.
5. Don't reveal confidential information about your employer's business.
6. Don't brag about your abilities.
7. Don't take or offer bribes.
8. Uphold the dignity and integrity of your profession.
9. Respect the competence, judgment, and authority of other professionals.

The final commandment is to tell the truth.

The last of this paper deals with professional societies, specifically THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY. He points out there are probably more biologists who do not belong to TWS than do and that is probably the norm for natural resource management professions. Those that don't belong ask, "What does TWS do for me?" To paraphrase President Kennedy it should be, "Ask not what my profession can do for me but what I can do for my profession." He admits there are those who need TWS and are willing to support it and there are those who don't. He objects to those who lose an argument and withdraw support for the society. "We should be bigger than that - - the stakes are too high and we are too few to make such action laudable."

The above paper does draw some parallels to NADCA. The Wildlife Society was started by a small bunch of wildlife professionals in 1937. Its original objectives were:

1. Establishment of professional solidarity and maintenance of the highest possible professional standards.
2. Development of all types of wildlife

management along sound biological lines.

3. Publications to effect these ends.
4. Protection of the interests of its members.

NADCA was started in 1979 with the following stated objectives:

1. To increase public awareness and understanding of the need for animal damage control in the production of food and fiber commodities through educational and informational programs.
2. To aid public and private decision making in animal damage control programs.
3. To support the use of vertebrate pest management as a necessary ingredient in certain situations in the overall wildlife management program.
4. To support and circulate research findings and legislative proposals that impact on the professional capabilities of animal damage control programs.
5. To assist members in solving specific animal damage control problems by referral to literature or individuals knowledgeable in that area of expertise.
6. To publish a newsletter periodically that serves as a forum on animal damage control activities.

How well has NADCA lived up to its objectives? Comparing the time frame of our 6 years to the 48 of TWS' existence, we like to think it hasn't been too bad. NADCA did publish the papers of the Predator Symposium it held in San Angelo (TX), but we have not been able to produce a series of scientific journals such as "The Wildlife Journal" of TWS. In all fairness, "The Wildlife Journal" at its inception in 1939 was the only journal in vertebrate wildlife biology in the U.S.A. and it remains as such. In ADC we face competition from the regularly published proceedings of such valuable conferences as the VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE (Univ.

California-Davis since 1962); BIRD CONTROL SEMINAR (Bowling Green SU, Bowling Green, OH since 1963); GREAT PLAINS WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL WORKSHOP (Kansas & Nebraska Universities since about 1971); EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL CONFERENCE (Cornell & North Carolina Universities since 1983); and Howdy is now trying to set up another international vertebrate pest control group (see APPLIED WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT below). Also the "Journal" has been publishing an increasing number of articles on ADC in the last decade or so. Thus we feel our limited resources are more effectively used in producing an informal, constant update on ADC activities calling attention to papers and experiences relative to ADC than in publishing yet another set of professional papers.

You're old when you look at the menu before you look at the waitress.

AND YOU THINK YOU HAVE ADC PROBLEMS ?

A herd of 17 elephants rampaged through a Sumatran village destroying 29 houses and killing a 14-year-old girl. They apparently carried off the girl as she was found 3 days after their raid. The herd which sneaked (if an elephant can sneak) off its park range 4 times within an 8 day period had been chased away by hundreds of villagers the first time. ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE, 2 April 85.

Telecom Australia is having a problem with the plastic sealed windows on their microwave telecommunication towers as the parrots love to peck the light weight plastic window keeping the antenna-feed tubes dry. Parrots moving into towns are another source of irritation. Part of this increase in population is due to trappers campaigning against live export laws who turn their birds loose. One example of damage was a \$13,000 repair bill on a hospital. Sulphur-crested cockatoos sharpening their bills on roof waterproofing damaged copper pipes. Undoubtedly the cockatoos, galahs, and corellas are a nuisance in Australia, but they sure are prettier pest birds

than our pigeons, sparrows, and starlings. Thanx to B. V. Fennessy, CSIRO, Canberra, Australia

Women who dress to please their husbands wear last years' clothes.

APPLIED WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Dr. Walter E. Howard, UC-Davis to THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY:

"There has long been a strong philosophical difference between the Wildlife Society and the many scientists and professionals interested in the applied aspects of wildlife management, a field better known in the United States as animal damage control (ADC). Consequently, relatively few of the professional scientists and operators in ADC are members of TWS.

Many of us think it would be highly beneficial to bridge this gap by forming a professional society devoted specifically to the many ecological, behavioral, economic, and political issues involved in animal damage. A respected journal is needed to unite this group academically and professionally to both supplement and complement, not compete with, the Journal of Wildlife Management. Biologists in TWS are primarily interested in managing the larger game species and predators. The small rodents and bird pests of agriculture, forestry, industry, and urban areas are left out. A few ADC articles do occasionally appear in the J of WM or TWS Bull., but then they are not written for a control-oriented audience.

We do not think the new Society will cause anyone to drop his membership in TWS, but we do think a fairly large number of individuals would then, at last, have a society which truly represents them. In this new Society, "wildlife" will refer to all those species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish which commonly become pests to one or more people, even though at the same time they may be considered highly desirable by someone else. We don't think the needed compromises are now being properly

resolved.

We plan a society which will properly address agriculture and forestry problems, as well as those of home owners and industry. We need a society that can work constructively with landowners. Today, the various conservation, fish and game, and wildlife agencies politically cannot afford to condone the use of pesticides. Our plan is to form this new Society so we can bring farmers and foresters back to helping wildlife. We are confident that the proposed Society will help preserve and produce favorable habitats for wildlife once we start providing environmentally suitable and efficacious ways of coping with the vertebrate pests that such habitats foster. Animal control is not a "no no", but an ecological "must," for ADC is applied ecology. At present, traps, guns, and poisons are essential components to many integrated pest management schemes against vertebrate pests.

The proposed new professional Society is timely, since at this writing (August 1985) it seems highly likely that ADC will be transferred from the F&WS of the Department of the Interior to Animal, Plant, Health, Inspection Services (APHIS) of the Department of Agriculture, effective October 1, 1985. Actually, it has now been determined by both USDI and USDA that the ADC function was never legally transferred from Agriculture in 1940 by the 1939 Reorganization Act, which transferred the rest of the Biological Survey from Agriculture to Interior.

It has recently come to light that those who have consistently acted to keep ADC in Interior have inadvertently fostered much of the current "anti" hunting and trapping movement. Since the F&WS, where ADC is now housed, is primarily protection and management oriented, a sharp conflict of interest exists. All seem to agree that the ADC program in Interior has not worked as we would like to see it function, and recognize that Interior has never provided adequate support to ADC.

What many of us have not been aware of is that due to the existing conflict of interest in the F&WS, which is protection and management oriented (as it should be), Interior has consistently muzzled its ADC employees. With government not explaining to the public why trapping, hunting and poisoning is at times essential for maintaining healthy wildlife populations and checking individual animals that become a problem to people, a communications void has been created. Adversary environmental groups have been quick and successful in exploiting this Government silence in their "cheap shot" anti approaches, thus raising vast sums of money by misleading the public. In this fundraising, the ecolawyers have not had to concern themselves with biological principles, as Government has provided them free rein to make cheap shots based on emotional dogma. This must be stopped, which the transfer of ADC to Agriculture and the new Society hope to do.

Hunting and fishing and fur trapping may soon be history if something isn't done to slow down the animal rights movement and re-educate the public. It is a law of nature that all animal populations must have a high premature death rate if they are to remain healthy. The public, and even large numbers of biologists, no longer seem to understand many of the principles of wildlife biology and the balance of nature in man-modified environments. They have become blinded by the anticontrol movement.

Since even the solicitors in both Interior and Agriculture have discovered that the ADC functions were never legally transferred to USDI, perhaps we should agree to see what USDA can do with the program. Once it's back in Agriculture, there will be much better lines of public communication opened up, for there is a vast array of Cooperative Farm & Home Extension Advisors and Land Grant Universities with their colleges of agriculture to show farmers and foresters how they can economically tolerate more wildlife by effectively controlling the pest vertebrates, and to

provide realistic wildlife education.

Yes, before we lose all hunting and trapping privileges, let's encourage both the transfer of ADC to Agriculture and the formation of a new international society in Applied Wildlife Management to constructively work with landowners in the conservation and betterment of our wildlife heritage. Let's recognize that when man enters an area and remains, he will alter the habitats; consequently he must then both manage and control rather than leave it to nature. Controlling wildlife is often a sound conservation practice, and this role needs to be better understood and made more sophisticated. When different philosophies cannot communicate, it is time for a new society."

As my editorial policy has been to print most everything sent in by the membership (with as little editing as I feel absolutely necessary to save space), I've printed Howdy's letter in its entirety. However, I feel he has completely ignored the role NADCA has played in working towards the shift of ADC to Agriculture. Furthermore, I do not see what is to be gained in publishing a professional journal when new findings are constantly being published in the proceedings of excellent ADC-oriented conferences. A few years ago, NADCA offered to work with the various universities over the country in an effort to coordinate meetings so that they wouldn't overlap. We were coolly turned down as the University dictum of "publish or perish" saw this as a threat to their turf, but such a system would insure prompt publication on any findings of interest to the ADC community. As of today there is about a two year lapse between submission and publication of most of the articles appearing in the Journal of Wildlife Management. What is to insure the same fate will not happen in a AJWM Journal? NADCA would be glad to assist in publishing collections of technical papers if such are really needed, but with our limited resources we feel THE PROBE serves a timely and important role in keeping the ADC

community informed on matters of interest to them.

Memory will let you dial the first 3 digits of a telephone number correctly.

2ND EASTERN WILDL. DAMAGE CONTR. CONF.

Details on the above conference to be held at North Carolina State University in Raleigh on September 22-25 are finally available. There is just no time slot available for an NADCA meeting during the conference so the Board will meet in some corner as yet to be found (unisex restroom ?) in the McKimmon Center starting at 10:00 AM on Sunday September 22nd. Everybody is welcome to chip in their thoughts and gripes. You can save \$5 on registration fees by sending in a \$50 preregistration fee (\$25 for students) before September 8th. This includes entrance to all sessions, copy of proceedings, early wine-cheese social, and a "pig-pickin'" Tuesday night. The program is as follows:

Sunday 22

7:00-9:00 PM - Early registration and Wine & Cheese Social at Mission Valley Inn.

Monday 23

08:45 AM - Opening remarks
09:00 AM - Welcome
09:20 AM - Keynote address
10:30 AM - Role and responsibilities of agencies for wildlife damage control

Session A

01:30 PM - Reducing predation to increase duck production
01:50 PM - Dispersal of a heron-egret rookery
02:10 PM - Whooping crane recovery program: Role of predator control
02:30 PM - Cormorant damage to commercial fishery, Wisconsin

Session B

01:30 PM - Vole control in eastern US
01:50 PM - Relationship between seasonal changes in forage quality and vole feeding patterns
02:10 PM - Repellents for rodents in conservation-tillage agriculture
02:30 PM - Efficacy and nontarget hazards for strychnine & zinc phosphide in prairie dog control

Joint Session

03:10 PM - Computerized information systems in ADC

03:30 PM - Computer assisted extension program in ground squirrel control

03:50 PM - Estimating cost-effectiveness of controlling animal damage to conifer seedlings

07:00 PM - Predator damage workshop

Tuesday 24

08:30 AM - Role of State Fish & Wildlife Agencies in Wildlife Damage Control

Session A

10:30 AM - Air Force problems with birds in hangers

10:50 AM - Birds in hangers - A messy problem

11:10 AM - Efficacy of bird-aircraft hazard reduction programs - Navy

11:30 AM - Control of nesting starlings with DRC-1339

Session B

10:30 AM - Preventive control of rodents

10:50 AM - Landowner tolerance of beavers

11:10 AM - Economic & environmental impact of beavers in North Carolina

11:30 AM - Techniques to discourage rebuilding of beaver dams demolished by explosions

Session A

01:30 PM - Reformulated 4-aminopyridine baits reduce blackbird/corn damage

01:50 PM - Effects of Canada Goose grazing on winter wheat

02:10 PM - Alternative 4-aminopyridine bait carriers to reduce blackbird/sunflower damage

02:30 PM - Methiocarb in blackbird/rice damage

03:10 PM - Management of nuisance Canada goose flocks

03:30 PM - Dispersing winter blackbird/starling roosts with helium-filled balloons

04:10 PM - Management implications from bird damage assessments in North Dakota sunflowers

Session B

01:30 PM - Intercept feeding as damage prevention for ungulates

01:50 PM - Current status of deer fencing

02:10 PM - Visual & auditory electronic devices to repel deer

02:30 PM - Public tolerance of suburban

deer herd

03:10 PM - Deer damage problem in Tennessee

03:30 PM - Deer damage & control in Ohio's nurseries, orchards, and Christmas tree plantings

03:50 PM - Assessing deer damage in young fruit orchards

04:10 PM - Enforcement reports of deer damage to crops

Wednesday 25

08:30 AM - Wisconsin funded ADC programs

08:50 AM - Snake repellents

09:40 AM - Future of Wildlife Damage Control

11:00 AM - Closing remarks

11:40 AM - Summary and evaluation comments

Home is where you hang your head.

TATTLE-TALE !!

MOBILIZATION FOR ANIMALS which stages publicity events for animal rights causes has found a new area to attack - it's own rump. After checking 1983 returns, it claims that "some" of the animal rights organizations take in much more money than they spend on the "cause". The wealthiest, the Massachusetts Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, has assets over \$43 million, that's a lot of beans. But the most interesting tables are those showing the following discrepancy between intake and what goes towards saving Bambi:

North Shore Animal League

Income: \$16,280,217

Outgo: 10,770,064

New England Anti-Vivisection Soc.

Income: \$ 2,500,000

Outgo: 460,000

Humane Society of the U.S.

Income: \$ 5,985,061

Outgo: 4,100,000

Bide-a-Wee Home Assoc.

National Anti-vivisection Soc.

Both had profits in excess of \$1,000,000

Helping explain the financial health of these organizations is their investments in major corporation stocks. But it seems somewhat ironic that American Anti-Vivisection Society, Animal Rescue

League, Humane Society of the U.S., Los Angeles SPCA, National Anti-Vivisection Society, North Shore Animal League, and the New England Anti-Vivisection Society, are investing their funds in firms that perform toxicologic testing and other experiments on animals.

But what really makes me look at my hole card is that John Hoyt (Humane Soc. of the U.S.) gets +\$100,900; Belton Mouras (Animal Protection Institute) \$100,035; David Claflin (Mass. SPCA) \$77,120; Arthur Slade (Animal Rescue League) \$45,200; and Alice Herrington (Friends of Animals) \$44,000. I sure picked the wrong cause. Thanx to RD Homer Ford and VOICE OF THE TRAPPER, July, 1985.

Grocery bags are getting stronger. They used to burst with \$10 worth of groceries. Now they hold \$40 worth easily.

LEGISLATION SCOREBOARD

Louisiana, Michigan, Maine, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Vermont, South Dakota, Illinois, Connecticut, and Arizona have passed anti-hunter-harassment legislation. Maryland has a similar bill waiting the Governor's signature. Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, Alaska, Kansas, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island have all introduced these bills in the current sessions.

"Only" 11 States have seen anti-trap bills introduced in State legislatures this year (as high as 32 States have had bills in past years): New York, Texas, Iowa, Maryland, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Illinois, Pennsylvania, etc. However, Lantos (D-CA)(HR 1809) and Mathias (R-MD) have introduced bills in Congress that would outlaw interstate and foreign trade in leghold traps and the fur taken in them. WRITE !

Pennsylvania has a particularly interesting set of laws in the hopper. The worst is #388 which would competely outlaw possession of any kind of leghold trap, even the one on the fireplace mantle. They except only rat and mouse

traps in buildings and traps owned by nonprofit humane organizations. Bill #162 will deduct \$1.00 from every hunting license in order to purchase a \$5000 insurance policy for each hunter. A look at the figures makes one wonder who gets the benefit. Pennsylvania sells about 1.3 million licenses giving the underwriter \$1,300,000 with which to pay claims that would have amounted to \$50,000 in 1983 when there was only ten hunting fatalities. Also bill #585 to purchase \$200,000 worth of rabbits at \$1.00 a pair from Missouri !

Write to your representative supporting the McClure-Volkmar "Federal Firearms Protection Act" HR # 945. This rewrites the Gun Control Act of 1968 which did nothing to deter criminal use of firearms but made it more difficult on citizen gun owners. It also increases the penalties for criminal use of guns.

Tom Nicholls writes that the DEFENDERS are keeping their promise of being back in Oregon after their stinging defeat at the polls:

SB 420 - Prohibits state agency funds to oppose any "candidate, measure, or petition..." This is aimed at Fish & Game's efforts against the anti-trap bill.

SB 465 - Prohibits sale or export of fur of animals not bred in captivity.

SB 790 - Prohibits for all practical purposes, trapping on public lands.

SB 792 - Authorizes use of ADC funds only for preventative controls, not "...for the purpose of destroying predators or other wildlife."

SB 814 - Requires trappers to post notice of trapping activity and check traps every 72-hours.

They are going to be busy !!

To take a small fortune out of Las Vegas, take a big fortune in.

NOW THEY'RE USING DOLLS !

Snuggles, a cute whitecoat harp seal pup wearing a sweater and ski cap, carries a tag identifying it as a symbol of the world-wide plight of seals. This is the type of gimmick the animal rightists revel in - anthropomorphic emotion without biological basis. Mattel, Inc., the fast-buck toy-maker, has promised to donate \$1 for each seal sold (undoubtedly still at a good profit) to the Humane Society of the U.S. which is already not hurting for money. Write to: Glenn A. Hastings, President, Mattel, Inc., 5150 Rosecrans Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250. Tell him what you think of this latest scam by HSUS.



Political plums sometimes grow from clever grafting.

EXPERIENCES AT A NATIONAL TWITCH SITE

So help me that's the title of a letter in BRITISH BIRDS (77:430-1, 1984) that "Bunny" Fennessy sent me. It seems that Dave & Maggie Parker reported the sighting of an olive-backed pipit (Anthus hodgsoni) in their backyard. This resulted in over 3,000 visitors in the 2 months the bird stayed around. The incident upset their daily lives leaving them with mixed feelings about ever reporting another rare sighting. It seems the British take their bird watching very seriously. (They don't explain "twitch" but then I probably

couldn't explain American football to them either.)

While prices have generally skyrocketed, a cabby will still give you a dirty look for a dime.

WHO'S CRYING WOLF ??

It is nice to have your gut perceptions borne out by more or less objective studies. Steve Kellert ran a statistically organized review of American public attitudes towards wildlife and came up with conclusions that are not exactly startling (BIOLOGICAL CONSERVATION 31 (1985) 167-189). A national sample was taken of individual attitudes towards 33 animals in all vertebrate classes plus the arthropod phylum. The ratings were as follows from the strongest feelings down to those less so:

Most LikedLeast Liked

Dog	Cockroach
Horse	Mosquito
Robin	Rat
Swan	Wasp
Butterfly	Rattlesnake
Trout	Bat
Eagle	Vulture
Salmon	Shark
Cat	Skunk
Elephant	Lizard
Turtle	Crow
Raccoon	Coyote
Ladybug	Wolf

The main thrust was the public attitude towards the wolf. Examining the data under regions of the country these differences appeared:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Like</u>	<u>Dislike</u>
Northeast	41.3%	37.2%
Northcentral	45.1%	34.0%
South	32.4%	53.7%
Rocky Mts.	50.7%	31.0%
Pacific coast	52.9%	30.8%
Alaska	74.7%	16.9%

It is interesting in that the persons living closer to the wolf have more positive feelings for the animal than

those with lesser contact - I guess to know him is to love him.

Another breakdown of data concerned the methods of taking coyotes. On the attitude towards shooting or trapping coyotes to prevent damage:

	<u>Like</u>	<u>Dislike</u>
Informed public	37.9%	62.1%
Uninformed public	43.6%	56.4%
Sheepmen	96.3%	5.3%
Cattlemen	94.3%	3.2%

On whether coyote control should be by poison:

Informed public	7.8%	92.3%
Uninformed public	9.8%	90.2%
Sheepmen	75.3%	24.6%
Cattlemen	70.5%	29.6%

This certainly indicates where we have failed in getting the true picture of ADC across to the public. Those supposedly better informed on wildlife were even more negative to control measures.

The study concluded that while a positive feeling for coyotes, and especially wolves, has increased in the U.S.A., these are still not object of widespread affection or concern except among particular groups, such as, wildlife enthusiasts, persons of higher socioeconomic status, non-livestock producing Westerners (particularly Alaskans), and those under 35 years of age. Thanx to "Bunny Fennessy" Australia

Save energy. Teach your son to mow the grass.

PERSONNEL

Orvis "Gus" Gustad retired the first of this year in Denver. He had spent his entire federal career in the ADC program, starting as a trapper, through state positions to the Washington Staff under Jack Berryman. He transferred back to Denver when new Region VI was set up and served as the ADC Regional

Supervisor until his retirement. Gus and Connie are accomplished musicians, hunters, and outdoorspeople. They have "retired" on acreage near Grand Junction, Colorado, where they plan to operate a craftshop, big game guiding, and woodworking.

Kirk Gustad, their son, was recently transferred from Texas to Elko, Nevada to continue the family tradition in ADC.

W.O. Nelson, Jr. suffered a heart attack but is apparently on the mend, thank goodness.

Bobby Tramel had to take an early retirement from State Supervisor in Mississippi this Spring because of poor health. This is a loss to ADC that will be difficult to make up.

Don Zielsch took an early retirement from the USFWS on February 15th this year. He was one of those administrative types that understood the needs of the field. After graduating from college in Wisconsin, he worked several years for trucking firms. He started in the USFWS as an administrative assistant under Lee Bacus in the State office in Denver in the sixties. After volunteering for a hitch as the ADC administrator in Washington he finally escaped back to Denver to continue his skiing when he was made the Administrative Officer of the Denver Wildlife Research Center until his retirement. We will miss his good humor and expertise. A railroading buff, we hope he doesn't get derailed or sidetracked from a long ride into the future.

We are saddened by the untimely death of Don Hartke's wife earlier this month. She was killed in an automobile accident on the freeway near Raleigh, NC. Don has planned to retire from the position of ADC State Supervisor next year. We extend our deepest sympathies for his loss.

Ernie Mills passed away in April. You youngsters didn't know him, but at one time he was about the whole ADC field force east of the Mississippi.

George W. Kerr died in Pocatello, Idaho at the age of 84. George was a pioneer aviator having flown in World War I. He was also pioneer ADC as he joined the U.S. Biological Survey (forerunner of the USFWS) in Boise in 1922. He transferred to Pocatello in 1944 to become manager of the Service's Supply Depot to keep us supplied with gas cartridges, poison grain, etc. George was an accomplished piano player and quite the life of some of the old PARC bash- - conferences.

THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF NADCA. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY OR A CONSENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

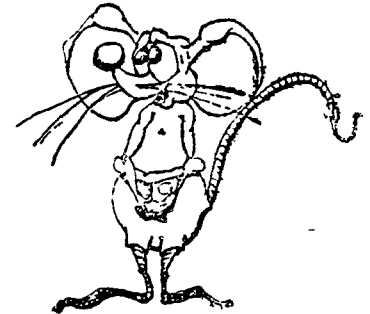
YE ED - William D. Fitzwater

Am trying a new 2-column format as it is more attractive and supposedly easier to read. Let me know if you don't like it as the old way was a good deal easier and quicker to set up.

Note this is the last 2-month edition. September is pretty well shot with a meeting on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation the middle of the month, then driving to the 2nd Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference in Raleigh. That's business. From there we're going down to see our son in Florida and hope to con him into taking us for a boat ride to the Bahamas. Will be thinking of you while washing down fresh-caught lobsters with pina coladas (Terry's an excellent skin diver). So you poor working stiffs don't expect anything from me till the middle of October.

Adios,

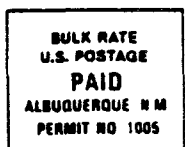
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